



Applied Practice for the Real World

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS) IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

DEREE - The American College of Greece has a long and honored tradition in psychology since 1966, being the first school in Greece to award a BA in Psychology. Since 2005 our graduate program in applied psychology has been training ethical, competitive and well educated professionals who find their own distinctive place within the profession of counseling psychology and other related disciplines in the area of mental health.

www.acg.edu/graduate



The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
 **DEREE**
The American College of Greece

Overview

Counseling psychology is an innovative branch of applied professional psychology concerned with the integration of different psychological theories and research traditions within the process of psychological therapy. The MS in Counseling Psychology and Psychotherapy prepares students for a career in counseling by providing them with required theoretical foundations and solid practical skills. Through balancing theoretical perspectives with application of techniques and approaches, the program aims to cultivate students' capacity for critical thinking and their ability to work with a diverse clientele in a variety of applied settings.

The program enables students to take a critical academic approach to theory, practice, and research in psychotherapeutic and counseling psychology, and trains them to work as independent professionals. The main educational goals are to:

- Promote personal awareness and development;
- Develop solid theoretical and psychological knowledge;
- Develop sound therapeutic skills through supervised practice;
- Foster a critical understanding of current professional concerns and debates;
- Develop solid research knowledge and skills.

Student & Graduate Profile

The program is appropriate for psychology graduates and practitioners who wish to pursue careers as counselors. Graduates of the program enter employment in a wide range of contexts. These include counseling in organizational or agency settings, e.g. mental health agencies/hospital units and education; counseling service management; counseling training; and, following further experience, private counseling practice.

Program Structure

Students must successfully complete 20 graduate level courses, representing a total of 54 US credits, carry out at least 700 hours of practical training, and undertake at least 40 hours of personal counseling/psychotherapy. Practical training is undertaken within a counseling agency or an organization from our network of collaborative organizations that offers counseling as part of their services. The practicum enables students to develop their skills as a counselor by working with actual clients and gaining experience of working alongside experienced colleagues.

Required Courses (50 credits):

Year 1: Principles of Counseling & Personal Development, Testing & Assessment, Biological Basis of Behavior, Professional & Ethical Issues in Counseling & Psychotherapy, Qualitative Research, Interviewing Techniques, Diversity Workshop, Advanced Analysis & Interpretation of Behavioral Data, Program Design & Evaluation, Group Counseling & Psychotherapy, Advanced Psychopathology, Workshop on Crisis Intervention

Year 2: Humanistic & Psychodynamic Approaches to Counseling & Psychotherapy, CBT Approaches to Counseling & Psychotherapy Practicum I, Counseling in Health Settings, Psychology of Addictions, Family & System Approaches to Counseling & Psychotherapy, Practicum II

Thesis (4 credits): Thesis

Career Services & Placement Opportunities

DEREE graduate psychology students benefit both from the ALBA Graduate Business School career workshops and events, as well as from the DERE Office of Career Services, which has placed thousands of DERE graduates since 1976. Graduates of the program can also opt for placement in internships within our network of collaborating organizations in the field of addiction counseling.

Tuition & Scholarships

DEREE – The American College of Greece aims to attract the highest quality graduate applicants regardless of their ability to finance their education. For this reason we offer scholarships covering a portion of the cost of tuition to *all* applicants who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance. A discount policy is also in effect for organizations and ACG alumni.

Admission to the Program

In order to be considered for entry to the program, applicants will normally be at least 23 years old and should be prepared to demonstrate the following:

- *Competence to undertake graduate work:* a College or University degree in psychology. Applicants who do not have

Flexible Study & Course Duration

The program may be completed in two years (full-time) or up to four years (part-time). Classes run Mondays to Thursdays from 18:00-21:00. New students are admitted at the start of the fall and spring terms.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, participants should be ready to engage in counseling practice. Specifically, they should be able to:

- Demonstrate in depth knowledge of various models of psychotherapy, capacity to critically evaluate and assess their effectiveness, and execute psychotherapeutic interventions within diverse relationships;
- Diagnose and assess categories of mental distress, psychopathology, and problems in living in diverse individuals, couple, families, and systems according to the current diagnostic systems;
- Construct the appropriate research design, collect data, and implement the necessary statistical techniques to answer research questions relevant to counseling psychology which adds to the discipline;
- Demonstrate ability to develop strategies and detailed plans for successful and ethical psychotherapeutic interventions with diverse client groups in various clinical contexts, including crisis intervention and case management assessment;
- Demonstrate a critical awareness and personal willingness to continue their personal and professional development.

a first degree in psychology may opt to attend a graduate conversion course, leading to a Graduate Certificate in Psychology, prior to entry to the program.

- *Evidence of Proficiency in the English language:* TOEFL, IELTS, Proficiency, or GCE
- *Motivation and or Relevant experience to specialize in this area:* Evidence of strong motivation to work in counseling will be sought in the interview and the personal statement submitted with the application form. Evidence of work experience in a setting where interpersonal relationships are of central importance, or experience in counseling, sponsorship, relevant social/community/voluntary work is highly desirable.
- *Suitability for counseling:* Evidence of personal maturity and resilience sufficient to cope with the emotional demands of counseling will be sought during the interview and from references.

CONTACT OUR OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

For more information on how to apply, fees and our scholarship program visit our website:

www.acg.edu/graduate or contact our Office of Admissions, telephone: +30 210 600 2208 or email: graduate@acg.edu.